

Olympics has brought us closer to that idea by encouraging excellence, sharing and courage through year-round sports training and athletic competition for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. Special Olympics improves health and physical well-being. It builds confidence and self-esteem. And perhaps most importantly, it gives athletes a voice, so that they can become active and productive members of their communities.

We sometimes forget what life was like for the intellectually disabled before the Special Olympics—a time when people were shuttered away in institutions, sentenced to lives of solitude, emptiness and sadness. But today that has all changed, largely because of the Special Olympics. Today, 2.5 million Special Olympians train and compete in 30 sports in over 180 countries. The Special Olympics has become a platform for breaking down social barriers—for raising the standard of public health, for helping intellectually disabled people overcome a prejudice that, for all our advances, plagues us to this day in some corners of society.

I urge my colleagues to stand with me to celebrate and honor the Special Olympics on the 40th anniversary of this remarkable, inspirational organization.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHICAGO TO MACKINAC RACE

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor one of the Great Lakes' most hallowed traditions: annual Chicago to Mackinac Race, the world's oldest and longest freshwater sailboat race. Each July, nearly 300 boats make the 333-mile trip to Mackinac Island in 2 to 3 days.

This year will mark the 100th anniversary of the race, commonly referred to by sailing enthusiasts as simply "the Mac." Although the first race was held in 1898, several years passed between the first and second running of the race. In other years, the race did not occur because of the United States' entry into World War I. Two other years also did not count toward the total number of Mackinac races, as the race did not terminate at Mackinac Island, but at Harbor Springs, Michigan. This year, however, will mark the 100th time that the regatta will make the trek from Chicago, north up Lake Michigan, following the shores of Michigan's Lower Peninsula to finally land on historic Mackinac Island.

In the nautical world, the Mac is viewed by many as an outstanding test of sailors' skill, experience and sailing aptitude. Lake Michigan's volatile weather conditions can mean that the race challenges sailors' abilities. Despite the dangers and challenges of the Mac, there has never been a fatality and only one boat has been lost.

The weather challenges presented to those who sail in the Mac are well documented. In July 1925, 21 yachts started the race. Within 12 hours, six of the boats in the competition were blown back to Chicago. In 1937, sailors encountered winds with gusts up to 65 knots, or 75 miles per hour. In that race, only eight boats finished what 42 started. Mac enthu-

siasts refer to 1970 as "the year of the big blow" because a northerly wind blasted competitors in the race head on. Of the more than 160 yachts participating, more than half were forced to take refuge in safe harbor, crippled with shattered masts, torn sails and seasick crews.

One of the most challenging Mackinac races in history occurred in 1911. That year, 11 boats holding 142 crewmembers set forth from Chicago to Mackinac. Overnight, temperatures dropped to freezing, the breeze turned into a blustering wind and then became a gale. To add to the discomfort, a rainstorm began. As night fell, the gale escalated to hurricane force, with gusts peaking at 80 miles per hour. The wind, rain and waves played topsy-turvy with the yachts and the race of 1911 ended with the loss of a legendary mahogany-hulled sail boat, by the name of *Vencedor*. The huge waves thrashed the boat mercilessly and plunged it between two boulders on one of the many Great Lakes reefs. Although the crew was rescued, the *Vencedor* was lost. Despite the terrible storm, all 142 men who sailed that regatta arrived safely ashore at Mackinac Island, showing once more the perseverance and determination of those who compete in the Mac.

The race is sponsored by the Chicago Yacht Club and this year begins there on Saturday, July 19. The continued support of the Chicago Yacht Club and—since 1937—the Mackinac Island Yacht Club has been critical to keeping the Mac going these many years. The U.S. Coast Guard has provided tremendous assistance for the race over the years, working to ensure the safety of the sailors and rescue boats when necessary.

Madam Speaker, there is great nautical history associated with the race and great personal pride among those who have participated. Sailors who have competed in more than 25 "Macs" are called "Island Goats," a title they wear with pride and affection. There are various explanations for where the title "Island Goat" originates. Some say that the sailors who participated in the race smelled like goats when they completed their two- or three-day voyage from Chicago. Others claim that the title "Island Goat" is a reference to the unruly celebrations of the early sailors when they finally arrived at Mackinac Island. Regardless of where the term stems, those who are "Island Goats" are proud of this distinction and have even formed the Island Goat Sailing Society.

Madam Speaker, this July, for the 100th time, those on the eastern shore of Lake Michigan will once again be able to gaze out upon the Lake and watch as an impressive regatta of hundreds of vessels race north toward Mackinac Island. As all of us from the Great Lakes observe the 100th anniversary of the Mac, I ask that you, Madam Speaker, and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join me in honoring the great tradition of the Mac and in saluting the thousands of men and women who have maintained this great race over the past century.

TRIBUTE TO MR. GIL LANGFORD

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Gilbert B. Langford, who died this week at the age of 82. One of the greatest honors in my time in Congress was awarding Gil the Congressional Gold Medal.

At the age of 16, he was assigned at Tuskegee Air Base later earning his wings and the honorable right to call himself a Tuskegee Airman. He ended his distinguished career as a 1st lieutenant acquiring the skills as a pilot, navigator, and bombardier.

As a civilian, he became one of the first black engineers for General Electric and served as a consultant to the U.S. Department of Energy while working for the Department of Defense.

Gil was a true American hero and will be missed most by his three children and six grandchildren. Gilbert Langford unselfishly gave every fiber to his country, and still believed he could give more.

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF HISTORY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, rise today to honor the Evangelical Mission and Seminary International in the Towaco portion of the Township of Montville, Morris County, New Jersey, a vibrant community I am proud to represent! On August 8 and 10, 2008, the good citizens of Montville will celebrate the Evangelical Mission and Seminary International's 40th anniversary.

Evangelical Mission and Seminary International, EMSI, was established in 1968 by the Reverend Moses Yang. The mission has branches in four continents: Europe, Asia, North America, and Africa, and is made up of several organizations, including Evangelical Bible Institute, Christian Evangelical Mission, and Christian Evangelical Overseas Outreach. Reverend Yang started the personal ministry in 1968. He opened his house and targeted different groups for Bible study, including the College Bible Study group, youth and junior high school students and the Children's Sunday School. When Bible study groups continued to grow, a church was established. The Evangelical Mission and Seminary International was established in Towaco, New Jersey in 1982. In the past 40 years, 1968–2008, the ministry had expanded to include seminaries, churches, mission, literature, and broadcasting.

The Evangelical Bible Institute, also located in Towaco, was founded in 1979 and occupies over 19 acres. Campus facilities include the Educational Building, a church, and Chinese/English library, which houses in excess of 14,000 books. The Christian Evangelical Mission was established in West Orange, New Jersey, in 1975. EMSI established the Christian Evangelical Overseas Mission in 1995